

# What is Democracy? Why Democracy?

### Fastrack« Revision

- ▶ Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people. According to Abraham Lincoln, 'Democracy is government of the people, by the people and for the people.'
- ▶ In a democracy, the final decision-making power must rest with those elected by the people. If in a country there is a formally elected Parliament and government but the real decision-making power lies with those who are not elected, then it is not a democracy. This is observed in dictatorships and monarchies. Pakistan also witnessed such a situation in 2002.

#### Knowledge BOOSTER



*In August 2002, a 'Legal Framework Order' that amended the Constitution of Pakistan, was issued by General Musharraf. On its basis, the President could dismiss the national or provincial assemblies.*

- ▶ In Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf led a military coup in October 1999. He overthrew a democratically elected government and declared himself the 'Chief Executive' of the country.
  - ▶ Later, he changed his designation to President and in 2002, he held a referendum in the country that granted him a five-year extension. Elections were held after passing this law, but the final decision rested with the military officers and General Musharraf himself.
  - ▶ A democracy must also be based on free and fair elections where those currently in power have a fair chance of losing. The elections must offer a real choice between political alternatives and it should be possible for people to use this choice to remove the existing rulers. This can be better understood by the way elections are held in China and Mexico.
    - ▶ Only those who are members of the Chinese Communist Party or eight smaller parties allied to it are allowed to contest elections in China.
    - ▶ In Mexico, people seem to have choice, but in practice, this was not true. There was no way the ruling party could be defeated, even if the people were against it. The ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) used many dirty tricks to win elections.
- ▶ In a democracy, each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value. Democracy is based on the fundamental principle of political equality and it has been adopted by a number of countries but in some countries, this principle is not followed.
  - ▶ A democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional laws and citizens' rights. It should allow sufficient room for normal political activity in the period before elections. Also a democratic government should ensure that the basic rights of its citizens are protected with the help of an independent judiciary. This was not the case in Zimbabwe.
  - ▶ Zimbabwe attained independence from white minority rule in 1980. Since then, the country has been ruled by ZANU-PF, the party that led the freedom struggle. The party leader, Robert Mugabe, has been the President of the country since independence.
  - ▶ Elections have been held regularly and always won by ZANU-PF. President Mugabe was popular but also used unfair practices in elections. Over the years, Mugabe's Government changed the Constitution several times to increase the powers of the President and make him less accountable.
  - ▶ The following arguments are given in favour of democracy:
    - ▶ A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of government.
    - ▶ It improves the quality of decision-making.
    - ▶ It provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts.
    - ▶ A democracy is better than any other form of government in responding to the needs of the people.
    - ▶ It offers better chances of good decision. It respects people's own wishes and allows different types of people to live together.
  - ▶ However, democracy is criticised on the following grounds:
    - ▶ Leaders keep changing in a democracy. This leads to instability.
    - ▶ Democracy is all about political competition and power play. There is no scope for morality.
    - ▶ Many people have to be consulted in a democracy and it leads to delays in decision-making.
    - ▶ Democracy leads to corruption for it is based on electoral competition.

#### Knowledge BOOSTER



*Estonia has made its citizenship rules in such a way that people belonging to Russian minority find it difficult to get the right to vote.*



## Practice Exercise

### Multiple Choice Questions

- Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by:
- rich people
  - royal families
  - the king
  - the people
- Q 2. When did General Pervez Musharraf lead a military coup in Pakistan?
- In October, 1990
  - In October, 1985
  - In October, 1989
  - In October, 1999
- Q 3. In which year, General Pervez Musharraf held a referendum which granted him five years extension as a President?
- 2004
  - 2003
  - 2000
  - 2002
- Q 4. Which country became independent in 1930?
- Saudi Arabia
  - Mexico
  - Fiji
  - China
- Q 5. In which country women do not have the right to vote?
- Estonia
  - Saudi Arabia
  - Fiji
  - Mexico
- Q 6. In a democracy, the final decision-making power is in hands of those who are:
- nominated by the government
  - elected by the people
  - authorised by the President to do so
  - authorised by the Prime Minister to do so
- Q 7. After which regular intervals, elections are held in China for electing the country's Parliament?
- 6 years
  - 4 years
  - 5 years
  - 7 years
- Q 8. Since its independence in ....., Mexico holds elections after every six years to elect its President.
- 1930
  - 1928
  - 1935
  - 1947
- Q 9. Why democracy is better than other forms of government?
- It helps in taking right decisions at right time
  - It allows us to correct our own mistakes
  - It guarantees that mistakes cannot be made in democracy
  - None of the above
- Q 10. A democratic government is better than a non-democratic government because:
- It may and can respond to the people's needs
  - It fulfil all the wishes of people
  - It is a more accountable form of government
  - None of the above
- Q 11. In which country did the worst-recorded famine in the world history take place?
- China
  - India
  - Pakistan
  - Zimbabwe
- Q 12. In which period did China face one of the worst famines that have occurred in the world?
- 1948-51
  - 1958-61
  - 1968-71
  - 1978-81
- Q 13. Which of the following party always forms the government in China?
- Communist Party
  - Marxist Party
  - China Zhi Gong Party
  - China Democratic League
- Q 14. Identify the incorrect statement(s).
- In China, elections are regularly held after every five-years for electing the country's Parliament.
  - In China, the government is always formed by the Chinese Communist Party.
  - In Mexico, until 2000, every election was won by PRI.
  - None of the above
- Q 15. Which organ of the government is required to protect the rights of the citizens?
- Executive
  - Independent judiciary
  - Legislature
  - Army
- Q 16. Which one of the following is considered as an accountable form of government?
- Autocratic government
  - Dictator government
  - Democratic government
  - Military government

### Knowledge BOOSTER

A democracy requires that the rulers have to attend to the needs of the people so, it is a more accountable form of government.



- Q 17. The most common form that democracy takes in our time is that of:
- unlimited democracy
  - representative democracy
  - direct democracy
  - None of the above

Q 18. Which of the following features of democracy /are responsible to improve the quality of decision-making?

- a. Democracy is based on consultation and discussion.
- b. Democratic decisions always involve many persons.
- c. Decisions are taken after discussions and meetings.
- d. All of the above

Q 19. Which of these is an example of perfect democracy?

- a. USA
- b. France
- c. India
- d. None of these

Q 20. Identify the correct pair.

Column I	Column II
1. Democracy is government of the people, by the people and for the people.	A. Mahatma Gandhi
2. General Pervez Musharraf	B. He led a military coup in October 2002 in Pakistan.
3. Saudi Arabia	C. Women had the right to vote.
4. Robert Mugabe	D. He was the leader of the party, ZANU-PF.

- a. 1-A
- b. 2-B
- c. 3-C
- d. 4-D

Q 21. The principle that can be applied to any sphere of life is:

- a. debate
- b. 'one person, one vote'
- c. democracy
- d. None of the above

Q 22. The principle of democracy is applicable to:

- a. right of speech only
- b. political rights only
- c. any sphere of life
- d. right to life only

Q 23. Which one of the following is not followed in a democratic form of government?

- a. Dignity of citizens
- b. Assurance of political rights to the citizens
- c. Restriction on freedom of speech and expression
- d. Consultation in decision-making

Q 24. Identify the incorrect statement about direct democracy.

- a. The will of the state is expressed directly through the people themselves.
- b. The representatives make laws on behalf of the people.
- c. It is not really suitable for modern national state.
- d. It can function only in very small countries.

Q 25. Which body in Indian political system is an example of direct democracy?

- a. Municipal Corporation
- b. Panchayat Samiti
- c. Gram Sabha
- d. Legislative Assembly

Q 26. Which form of government requires all citizens to take part in politics?

- a. Monarchy
- b. Dictatorship
- c. One-party government
- d. Democracy

Q 27. Who is the ruler of Zimbabwe since independence?

- a. Pinochet
- b. Pervez Musharraf
- c. Robert Mugabe
- d. Allende

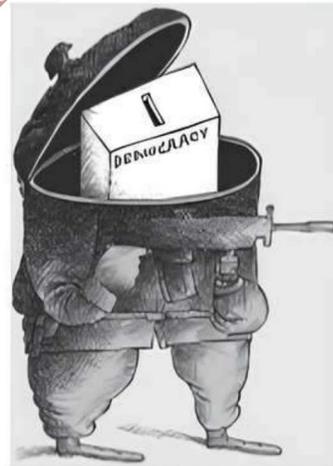
Q 28. In 1980, Zimbabwe attained independence from:

- a. White majority rule
- b. White minority rule
- c. Americans
- d. British rule

Q 29. The drawback(s) of democracy is/are:

- a. instability and delays
- b. politicians fighting among themselves
- c. corruption
- d. All of the above

Q 30. Study the picture and answer the question that follows:



What neighbouring country of India can the above cartoon be related to?

- a. Pakistan
- b. Nepal
- c. Bhutan
- d. Bangladesh

Q 31. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:

Statement (I): Democracy is a form of government in which the power is vested in a few individuals.

Statement (II): Democracy is a form of government in which the power is vested in the hands of the people.

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
- b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
- c. Both statements are incorrect.
- d. Both statements are correct.

Q 32. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:

**Statement (I):** Democracy is not just about government of the people but also about government for the people.

**Statement (II):** Democracy ensures that the government is responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people.

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
- b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
- c. Both statements are incorrect.
- d. Both statements are correct.

Q 33. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:

**Statement (I):** Democracy is a western concept that cannot be applied in non-western societies.

**Statement (II):** Democracy is based on universal values such as freedom, equality and justice that are applicable to all societies.

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
- b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
- c. Both statements are incorrect.
- d. Both statements are correct.



### Assertion & Reason Type Questions

**Directions (Q.Nos. 34-38):** In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Q 34. **Assertion (A):** A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of government.

**Reason (R):** Many people have to be consulted in a democracy and it leads to delays in decision-making.

Q 35. **Assertion (A):** There is a lesser possibility of famine in a democratic country.

**Reason (R):** People are free to believe in and practise any religion.

Q 36. **Assertion (A):** Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts.

**Reason (R):** Democracy provides the citizens a right to follow any religion.

Q 37. **Assertion (A):** Leaders keep changing in a democracy.

**Reason (R):** Elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people.

Q 38. **Assertion (A):** Democracy improves the quality of decision-making.

**Reason (R):** Democracy is based on consultation and discussion.

### Answers

- 1. (d)    2. (d)    3. (d)    4. (b)    5. (b)
- 6. (b)    7. (c)    8. (a)    9. (b)    10. (c)
- 11. (a)    12. (b)    13. (a)    14. (d)    15. (b)
- 16. (c)    17. (b)    18. (d)    19. (d)    20. (d)
- 21. (c)    22. (c)    23. (c)    24. (b)    25. (c)
- 26. (d)    27. (c)    28. (b)    29. (d)    30. (a)
- 31. (b)    32. (d)    33. (b)    34. (b)    35. (b)
- 36. (a)    37. (c)    38. (a)



### Source Based Questions

#### Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

In China, elections are regularly held after every five-years for electing the country's Parliament, called Quanguo Renmin Daibiao Dahui (National People's Congress). The National People's Congress has the power to appoint the President of the country. It has nearly 3,000 members elected from all over China. Some members are elected by the army. Before contesting elections, a candidate needs the approval of the Chinese Communist Party. Only those who are members of the Chinese Communist Party or eight smaller parties allied to it were allowed to contest elections held in 2002-03. The government is always formed by the Communist Party.

Since its independence in 1930, Mexico holds elections after every six-years to elect its President. The country has never been under a military or dictator's rule. But until 2000 every election was won by a party called PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party). Opposition parties did contest elections, but never managed to win. The PRI was known to use many dirty tricks to win elections.

Q 1. Name the Parliament of China for which elections are held after every five-years.

- a. Quanguo Renmin Daibiao Dahui
- b. National People's Congress
- c. Both a. and b.
- d. Chinese Communist Party

Q 2. How many members are elected from all over China to National People's Congress?

- a. 2,000    b. 3,000    c. 4,000    d. 5,000

Q 3. Which party always form the government in China?

- a. China Zhi Gong Party
- b. Chinese Communist Party
- c. China Democratic League
- d. Workers' Democratic Party

- Q 4. After how many years elections are held in Mexico to elect its President?  
 a. Four      b. Five      c. Six      d. Seven
- Identify the incorrect statement about National People's Congress.  
 a. It has the power to appoint the President of the country.  
 b. It uses many dirty tricks to win the elections.  
 c. Some of its members are elected by the army.  
 d. It has nearly 3,000 members elected from all over China.

- Q 6. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read them and choose the correct option:  
**Assertion (A):** Communist Party always forms the government in China.  
**Reason (R):** People have to choose the ruling party and the candidates approved by it.
- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).  
 b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).  
 c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.  
 d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

**Answers**

1. (d)    2. (b)    3. (b)    4. (c)    5. (b)    6. (a)

**Source 2**

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Zimbabwe attained independence from White minority rule in 1980. Since then, the country has been ruled by ZANU-PF, the party that led the freedom struggle. Its leader, Robert Mugabe, ruled the country since independence. Elections were held regularly and always won by ZANU-PF. President Mugabe was popular but also used unfair practices in elections. Over the years his government changed the Constitution several times to increase the powers of the President and make him less accountable. Opposition party workers were harassed and their meeting disrupted. Public protests and demonstrations against the government were declared illegal. There was a law that limited the right to criticise the President. Television and radio were controlled by the government and gave only the ruling party's version. There were independent newspapers but the government harassed those journalists who went against it. The government ignored some court judgments that went against it and pressurised judges. He was forced out of office in 2017.

- Q 1. From which of the following Zimbabwe attained independence in 1980?  
 a. Black majority rule      b. White minority rule  
 c. Mexico      d. China
- Q 2. Which party ruled the country, Zimbabwe and led the freedom struggle since 1980?  
 a. Communist Party  
 b. Marxist Party  
 c. ZANU-PF  
 d. Institutional Revolutionary Party
- Q 3. Who ruled the country since independence of Zimbabwe?  
 a. Robert Williams      b. Robert Mugabe  
 c. Pinochet      d. Allende
- Q 4. How was there no rule of law under Mugabe's rule?  
 a. Elections were won through violence and harassment of the opposition politicians, workers and journalists.  
 b. People found it difficult to get the right to vote.  
 c. There was political competition and power play.  
 d. Leaders do not know the best interests of the people that led to bad decisions.

- Q 5. When was Mugabe thrown out of power from Zimbabwe?  
 a. 2015      b. 2016      c. 2017      d. 2018
- Q 6. What was the unfair practice used by Mugabe in elections?  
 a. Public protests and demonstrations against the President were declared illegal.  
 b. Opposition party workers were harassed and their meeting disrupted.  
 c. There was no rule of law and citizen's rights were not respected.  
 d. All of the above

**Answers**

1. (b)    2. (c)    3. (b)    4. (a)    5. (c)    6. (d)

**Source 3**

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:

In Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf led a military coup in October 1999. He overthrew a democratically elected government and declared himself the 'Chief Executive' of the country. Later, he changed his designation to President and in 2002 held a referendum in the country that granted him a five year extension. Pakistani media, human rights organisations and democracy activists said that the referendum was based on malpractices and fraud. In August, 2002 he issued a 'Legal Framework Order' that amended the Constitution of Pakistan. According to this

Order, the President can dismiss the national and provincial assemblies. The work of the civilian cabinet is supervised by a National Security Council which is dominated by military officers. After passing this law, elections were held to the national and provincial assemblies. So, Pakistan has had elections, elected representatives have some powers. But the final power rested with military officers and General Musharraf himself.

**Q 1. Who said that the referendum held in 2002 was based on malpractices and fraud?**

**Ans.** Pakistani media, human rights organisations and democracy activists said that the referendum held in 2002 was based on malpractices and fraud.

**Q 2. What was the motive towards issuing a 'Legal Framework Order' in August 2002?**

**Ans.** General Pervez Musharraf issued a 'Legal Framework Order' in August 2002 with the motive to ensure that he had the ultimate power to decide how he wanted Pakistan to be ruled.

**Q 3. What were the amendments made in the Constitution of Pakistan under Legal Framework Order?**

**Ans.** The amendments made in the Constitution of Pakistan under Legal Framework Order were:  
(i) The President can dismiss the national or provincial assemblies.  
(ii) The work of the civilians cabinet is supervised by a National Security Council which is dominated by military officers.



### **Very Short Answer Type Questions** ↘

**Q 1. What is direct democracy?**

**Ans.** In direct democracy, the will of the state is expressed directly through the people themselves.

**Q 2. What is indirect democracy?**

**Ans.** In indirect democracy, the representatives make laws on behalf of the people.

**Q 3. Mention any two conditions necessary for the success of democracy.**

**Ans.** The two conditions necessary for the success of democracy are:  
(i) A democratic society. (ii) Sound leadership.

**Q 4. What is meant by political equality?**

**Ans.** Political equality means that each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value.

**Q 5. Which country out of France, USA, Myanmar and India is not a true democratic country?**

**Ans.** Myanmar is not a true democratic country because it is ruled by military rulers.

**Q 6. Which Pakistani General led a military coup in October 1999?**

**Ans.** The Pakistani General who led a military coup in October 1999 was General Pervez Musharraf.

**Q 7. What was the designation taken by Pervez Musharraf for himself when he overthrew the democratic government of Pakistan in 1999?**

**Ans.** General Pervez Musharraf declared himself the Chief Executive of Pakistan when he overthrew the democratic government of Pakistan in 1999.

**Q 8. With what motive did General Pervez Musharraf issue a 'Legal Framework Order' in August 2002?**

**Ans.** General Pervez Musharraf issued a 'Legal Framework Order' in August 2002 with the motive to ensure that he had the ultimate power to decide how he wanted Pakistan to be ruled.

**Q 9. In Mexico, people seem to have choice, but in practice this was not true. Why?**

**Ans.** It was because the ruling party (PRI) used dirty tricks to win the elections.

**Q 10. When did Mexico get independence?**

**Ans.** Mexico got independence in 1930.

**Q 11. From 1930, which country holds elections after every six years and which has never been under a military or dictator's rule?**

**Ans.** The country is Mexico that holds elections after every six years from 1930 and has never been under a dictator's rule or a military rule.

**Q 12. Name the famous political party of Mexico.**

**Ans.** The famous political party of Mexico is Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

**Q 13. What is the name of the Chinese Parliament?**

**Ans.** The name of the Chinese Parliament is National People's Congress ('Quanguo Renmin Daibiao Dahui' in Chinese Mandarin language).

**Q 14. Who has the power to appoint the President in China?**

**Ans.** The National People's Congress has the power to appoint the President in China.

**Q 15. Which is the most common form of democracy?**

**Ans.** 'Representative Democracy' is the most common form of democracy. In this form, the majority of people rule through elected representatives.

**Q 16. What is a referendum?**

**Ans.** A referendum is a vote in which the electorate can express a view on a particular issue of public policy.

**Q 17. What is recall procedure? When is it used?**

**Ans.** Recall is a procedure by which public officers may be removed from office vote of the people. It is used in relation to the legislators and executive officials.

**Q 18. When was Nigeria became independent and public?**

Nigeria became independent in 1960 and became a public in 1963.

**What is the role of citizen in promoting democracy?**

In a democracy, every citizen should be able to pay equal role in decision-making. For this, the citizen not only needs an equal right to vote but also equal information, basic education, equal resources and a lot of commitment.

**Q 20. Give any one argument against democracy.**

**Ans.** Leaders keep changing in a democracy. This leads to instability.

**Q 21. Following cartoon is about the Iraqi election held after Saddam Husseln's regime was overthrown. He is shown behind the bars.**



**What is the cartoonist saying here?**

**Ans.** In one of the quotation of the cartoon, the cartoonist tells us about the equality of the right to vote and equal value of each man's vote. In another quotation, he says that the dictator, mostly prefers the situation when he is the only man to decide any matter by his only vote.

**Q 22. "A minister said that some laws have to be passed by the parliament in order to conform to the regulations decided by the World Trade Organisation."** Above statement contains a democratic and an undemocratic element. Write out the two separately.

**Ans.** The fact that the laws need to be passed by the parliament is democratic, while conformation to the WTO regulations is undemocratic.

**Short Answer Type Questions**

**Q 1. What is democracy? Give examples of non-democratic countries.**

**Ans.** Democracy is a form of government in which the representatives elected by the people in a country sit together to take decisions. Elections are held to choose the representatives and native people or

citizens are allowed to participate in the electi  
Some non-democratic countries are Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, etc.

**Q 2. What is direct democracy ?**

**Ans.** Direct democracy is that form of government in which people directly participate in the affairs of the state. Its features are:

- (i) In it, public opinion is expressed directly in assemblies or meetings.
- (ii) All the adult citizens have the right to participate in the meetings of the Assembly where all the laws are passed, taxes are assessed and appointments to execute the decisions taken in the Assembly are made.
- (iii) Now-a-days, this system is possible only in a few cantons of Switzerland and some states in USA.

**TIP**

*It is better to explain the features in points rather than in paragraph. Do not forget to give examples of countries having direct democracy.*

**Q 3. What is indirect democracy ?**

**Ans.** Under this system, people elect their representatives for a specific period who run the administration.

Some of its features are:

- (i) If representatives do not work according to the wishes of the people and for their welfare, they are changed at the time of next elections.
- (ii) People do not directly take part in the affairs of the states. They elect their representatives who conduct the affairs of the states.
- (iii) It exists in India, England, USA and France.

**Q 4. Why Pakistan may not be called a democracy under General Pervez Musharraf?**

**Ans.** Pakistan under Pervez Musharraf may not be called a democracy because of the below mentioned reasons:

- (i) People may have elected their representatives to the national and provincial assemblies but those elected representatives were not rulers.
- (ii) The power to take final decision rested with the army officials or with General Musharraf and none of them were elected by the people.
- (iii) They formally have an elected Parliament and government but the real power is with those who are not elected.

**Q 5. What steps were taken by General Pervez Musharraf in Pakistan to empower/enhance himself?**

**Ans.** He took the following steps to enhance his power:

- (i) In August 2002, he issued a 'Legal Framework Order' that amended the Constitution of Pakistan. According to this order, the President can dismiss the national or provincial assemblies.

- (ii) The work of the Civilian Cabinet was to be supervised by a National Security Council which was dominated by military officers.

### Knowledge BOOSTER

 In October 1999, General Musharraf came to power after attempting a military coup. He overthrew a democratically elected government and declared himself the Chief Executive of the country.

**Q 6. How elections in India are different from Mexico?**

**Ans.** The elections in India and Mexico are different. This will be clear from the below mentioned points:

- (i) Both the countries have a multi-party system. But, in case of India, the political parties in power often lose elections whereas in case of Mexico, the PRI did not lose a single election for more than 70 years.
- (ii) Elections in India are held after every five years whereas in case of Mexico, the elections are held after every six years.
- (iii) Government officials work under the Election Commission during the election days in India whereas this is not true for Mexico.

**Q 7. Giving the example of Mexico, prove that although having a democratic system, they were not practising democracy.**

**Ans.** Since, its independence in 1930, Mexico holds elections every six years to elect their President. But until 2000, every election was won by a party called PRI. Opposition parties contested elections, but never managed to win. The PRI was known to use several unfair tricks to win elections.

- (i) The PRI spent large amounts of money in campaign for its candidates.
- (ii) Booths were shifted from one place to another in the last minute, which made it difficult for the people to cast their votes.

This proves that although Mexico had a democratic system, they were not practising democracy.

### Knowledge BOOSTER

 The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) was founded in 1929 and held power uninterruptedly in the country for 71 years.

**Q 8. 'In China, elections are regularly held after five years for electing the country's Parliament, still it cannot be called a democratic country.' Give reasons.**

OR

'Elections in China do not represent people's verdict.' Explain.

**Ans.** In China, elections are held regularly after five years for electing the country's Parliament, called Quanguo Renmin Daibiao Dahui (National People's

Congress) but still it cannot be called a democracy because of the below mentioned reasons:

- (i) Before contesting elections, a candidate needs the approval of the Chinese Communist Party.
- (ii) Only those, who are members of the Chinese Communist Party or eight smaller parties allied to it are allowed to contest elections.
- (iii) The government is always formed by the Chinese Communist Party.

**Q 9. Mention the freedoms that are usually taken away when democracy is overthrown by a military regime.**

**Ans.** The freedoms that are usually taken away when democracy is overthrown by a military regime are:

- (i) The people will have no freedom of speech and expression.
- (ii) The rulers do not have to act according to the wishes of the people in a non-democratic government. Their needs can be ignored by the military ruler.
- (iii) The same ruler or the ruling party can rule the country for a very long time in a military regime.
- (iv) The political freedom of the citizen is completely denied in a military regime. They can't form political associations or organise protests.

**Q 10. The principle of 'One Person, One Vote, One Value' is not followed in every country. Elaborate.**

**Ans.** The principle of 'One Person, One Vote, One Value' is not followed in many countries. Some of them are as follows:

- (i) In Saudi Arabia, women do not have the right to vote.
- (ii) Estonia has made its citizenship rules in such a way that people belonging to Russian minority find it difficult to get the right to vote.
- (iii) In Fiji, the electoral system is such that the vote of an Indigenous Fiji has more value than that of an Indian-Fijian.

**Q 11. Why the ruling party in Zimbabwe cannot be considered as democratic?**

**Ans.** In Zimbabwe, the ruling party ZANU-PF and its leader, Robert Mugabe cannot be considered as democratic because of the below mentioned reasons:

- (i) To enhance his power and to make the President less accountable, the government has changed the Constitution several times in Zimbabwe.
- (ii) There is no freedom of press. Journalists and workers of the opposition party are harassed. Television and radio broadcast only the views of the ruling party.
- (iii) Government ignores the judgement of the court and judges.

Q 12. 'Democracy is all about political competition and power play. There is no scope for morality'. Justify the statement.

The given statement can be justified as follows:

- (i) Democracy leads to corruption as it is based on electoral competition. Elections can be won by muscle power, money power or both.
- (ii) Most of the elected leaders do not know the best interests of the people due to which many wrong decisions are being made.
- (iii) At various levels, people have to be consulted in a democratic government due to which decisions get delayed.



**TIP**

Students are required to give justification of muscle power in democracy through examples.

Q 13. 'Democracy improves the quality of decision-making.' Explain.

Ans. Democracy improves the quality of decision-making in the following manner:

- (i) Democracy is based on consultation and discussion. A democratic decision always involves many persons, discussions and meetings.
- (ii) When a number of people put their heads together, they are able to point out possible mistakes in decisions.
- (iii) Decision-making takes time in democracy. But there is a big advantage in taking time over important decisions. It reduces the chances of rash or irresponsible decisions.



**Long Answer Type Questions**

Q 1. State any five characteristics of democracy.

Ans. The following are the characteristics of democracy:

- (i) Only leaders elected by people rule the country and take all major decisions.
- (ii) People have the freedom to express views, freedom to organise and freedom to protest.
- (iii) Elections offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers.
- (iv) This choice and opportunity is available to all the people on an equal basis.
- (v) The exercise of this choice leads to the formation of a government limited by basic rules of the Constitution and citizens' rights.

Q 2. What are the merits of democracy?

Ans. The following are the merits of democracy:

- (i) A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of government.
- (ii) Democracy improves the quality of decision-making because a democratic decision always involves many persons, discussions and meetings.

- (iii) In any society, people are bound to differences of opinions and interests. Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts.
- (iv) Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens.
- (v) Democracy allows us to correct our own mistakes.

Q 3. What do you mean by representative democracy? Why is it becoming the most common form of government in modern times?

Ans. Representative democracy is a type of democracy based on the principle of elected representatives representing a group of people as opposed to direct democracy.

It is becoming the most common form of government in modern times because of the following reasons:

- (i) Representative democracy makes better sense of the needs and demands of the people and convert them into practical action plans.
- (ii) It considers the needs and demands of the minorities as well as depressed classes so, their helplessness is removed.
- (iii) Representatives and political parties are able to arbitrate between the different pressure groups and different sections of society.
- (iv) Representative democracy allows us to elect representatives having knowledge of specific subjects of interest and thus can take decisions accordingly.

Q 4. Explain main challenges to democracy.

Ans. The following are the main challenges to democracy:

- (i) The most serious challenge in democracy is the growing social and economic inequality among the people. Although all the citizens have the right to vote and fight elections, only rich people have a chance to win the election.
- (ii) The role of anti-social elements has increased very much during the elections. Voters are coerced to vote for a particular candidate or a party. Rigging also takes place during elections.
- (iii) In many democratic countries of the world, political leaders and government officials are corrupt, dishonest and inefficient. As a result, people do not take interest in elections and have no faith in government officials.
- (iv) Casteism and communalism are other big challenges in many democratic countries like India. Representatives elected on the basis of caste or religion work for the welfare of the people belonging only to their caste or religion.
- (v) All the decisions are to be approved and discussed in the Parliament and many people and institutions are to be consulted. So, it leads to delays in decision-making.

5. Explain with an example how popular governments can be undemocratic and popular leaders can be autocratic.

5. Since its independence in 1980, Zimbabwe has been ruled by ZANU-PF, the party that led the freedom struggle. Its leader, Robert Mugabe, ruled the country upto 2017. Elections have been held regularly and always won by ZANU-PF. President Mugabe is popular but also uses unfair practices in elections. Over the years, his government has changed the Constitution several times to increase the powers of the President and make him less accountable.

Opposition party workers are harassed and their meetings are disrupted. Public protests and demonstrations against the government were declared illegal. There was a law that limits the right to criticise the President. Television and radio were controlled by the government and broadcasted only the ruling party's versions.

The actions of President Mugabe show that popular governments can be undemocratic and popular leaders can be autocratic.

Q 6. What were the dirty tricks used by the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) to win elections in Mexico?

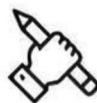
Ans. The PRI used many dirty tricks to win all the elections from 1930 till 2000 which are:

- (i) All those who were employed in government offices had to attend its party meeting.
- (ii) Teachers of government schools used to force parents to vote for the PRI.
- (iii) Media criticised the opposition parties but largely ignored their activities and good efforts.
- (iv) The PRI spent a large sum of money in the campaign for its candidates and to manipulate the elections.
- (v) Sometimes the polling booths were shifted from one place to another without any prior notice. Thus, the party tried to hamper the election procedure.

Q 7. Differentiate between the democratic and non-democratic government.

Ans. Difference between the democratic and non-democratic government are:

S. No.	Basis of Difference	Democratic Government	Non-democratic Government
(i)	Accountability	It is the best form of government as the rulers are accountable to the people and have to fulfil their needs.	The rulers are not accountable to the people and their needs.
(ii)	Authority	In democratic governments, people elect their rulers and have right in decision-making.	In non-democratic governments, people do not elect their rulers and have no right in decision-making.
(iii)	Role of Parliament	The Parliament is a separate body and has no interference from army.	The Parliament cannot pass a law about the army without the consent of the chief of army.
(iv)	Right to Vote	The right to vote is available for all citizens.	The citizens of the country have no right to vote.
(v)	Basis	Democracy is based on consultation.	Non-democratic government is based on dictatorship.



## Chapter Test

### Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1. .... is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people.
- a. Dictatorship
  - b. Non-democratic government
  - c. Democracy
  - d. Monarchy

- Q 2. Which party always won elections in Mexico since its independence in 1930 till 2000?
- a. Revolutionary Party
  - b. Mexican Revolutionary Party
  - c. Institutional Revolutionary Party
  - d. Institutional Party